Environmentalists and others have called for an action plan for pollution control by Government and non-Government Organisations;

(b) If so, whether a function in the Bhartia Vidya Bhawan, New Delhi was held on that day;

(c) if so, the details of discussions held in the function; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPTAIN JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) The World Environment Day is held on the 5th June every year to create awareness about the environment. The United Nations Environment Programme suggests a theme for the Day. The theme for this year was "Our Earth, Out Habitat, Our Home". Various organisations in the country organised functions to commemorate the Day. The ministry is not aware of any specific call given for an action plan for pollution control on the occasion.

(b) to (d) The Ministry is not aware of any function having been held in the Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan, New Delhi on that day.

Steps to Create Mass awareness of Pollution

3121. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to check environmental pollution in the country; and

(b) what effective measures Government propose to take to create mass awareness on environmental pollution in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPTAIN JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) The steps taken by the Government to check environmental pollution in the country include the following:

1. Environmental Guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

2. Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.

3. Custom and excise duty exemptions are provided to the industries for pollution control/ monitoring equipment.

4. A scheme for setting up of common effluent treatment plants in clusters of small scale industrial units is under implementation.

5. To promote pollution prevention in small and medium scale industries, a project on establishment of waste minimisation circles in cluster of small scale industries has been taken up.

6. Effluent and emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

7. 24 problems areas have been identified in the country for abatement of pollution.

8. A network of ambient air and water quality monitoring stations throughout the country has been set up.

9. Tighter emission standards were introduced on 1.4.1996 for all categories of petrol and diesel vehicles is to be made stricter from 1.4-2000. This would help introduce cleaner vehicles involving upgradation of technologies to reduce emissions from vehicles.

10. The Central Government has advised the various States to enforce the standards for emissions from on-road vehicles and create awareness

amongst the general public on various aspects such as maintenance of vehicles. health effects of vehicular pollution.

11. Low-lead petrol had been introduced in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai with effect from June, 1994. Susequently, unleaded petrol was introduced in the above mentioned four cities on 1.4.1995.

12. The Government is implementing a major plan of action for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converter vehicles, introduction of low sulphur diesel for cleaner diesel vehicles in a phased manner. Fuel quality standards for petrol and diesel have been notified.

(b) The effective measures taken by the Government to create mass awareness on environmental pollution in the country include the following:

1. Public Awareness and Assistance Centres have been created in the Central and State Pollution Control Boards to provide information and assistance on pollution control and other related matters to the general public and non-governmental organisations.

2. The Central Pollution Control Board is organising an Interaction Meet with Non-Governmental Organisations for creating mass awareness on environmental pollution

3. The Central Pollution Control Board has prepared a Water Testing Kit which is provided to the Non-Governmental Organisations for water quality monitoring and thus creating general awareness on environmental pollution.

4. The Central Pollution Control Board is bringing out a quarterly Newsletter "PARIVESH" for creating mass awareness on various aspects of environmental pollution in the country.

5. Awareness campaign on vehicular pollution in Delhi has been launched through Transport Department, Government of Delhi.

6. Sector-specific awareness and training programmes on environmental audit have been conducted through Confederation of Indian Industry.

7. Awareness programmes on the concept of waste minimisation and its benefits in clusters of small scale industries in various parts of the country have been organised through National Productivity Council.

8. Awareness programmes on pollution control and prevention in small scale industries for personnel in Small Industry Development Organisation and for entrepreneurs are being organised through Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries (DC, SSI).

9. The Government has launched schemes viz. National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) and Paryavaran Vahani for creating environmental awareness among the general public and Non-Governmental Organisations.

10. The Government provides financial assistance to the selected producers for production of films/documentaries on various environmental issues.

11. The Government has launched various programmes *viz.* Eco-Clubs, Seminars/Symposia/Workshops for providing a forum for sharing up-to-date knowledge on various environmental and technical issues.